

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ACDA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 BIB-01 SES-02 SAS-02 /096 W
-----089299 141830Z /50

R 141626Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5527
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 19343

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, PEPR, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SHARPENS ATTACKS ON U.S.

SUMMARY: SOVIET SUNDAY PRESS COMMENTARY REINFORCES
AND DEEPENS IMAGE OF U.S. ADMINISTRATION AS
INCREASINGLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE INFLUENCES OF THE
MILITARISTS, AS BACKING AWAY FROM ITS ARMS CONTROL
ADVOCACY, AND AS INCREASINGLY UNPOPULAR. THE
PRESIDENT IS CRITICIZED FOR TWO-FACED STATEMENTS.
END SUMMARY.

1. YAKHONTOV IN PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK COLUMN
OF AUGUST 13 CITES "SEVERAL FRESH EXAMPLES" OF U.S.
"VACILLATIONS" AND "POLITICAL ZIGZAGS." HE POINTS
TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S REPORTED COOLING TO A ZERO
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YIELD FIVE-YEAR CTB AND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
"COALITION FOR
PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH" (TRANSLATED AS "COALITION
FOR PEACE FROM POSITIONS OF STRENGTH," A FORMULATION
EVOKING MEMORIES OF THE COLD WAR).

2. THE SAME ISSUE OF PRAVDA CARRIES TASS' REPORT

OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW IN BUSINESS WEEK.
TASS ASSERTS THAT:

-- THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON WORLD AFFAIRS HAD
A TWO-FACED ("DVOISTVENNYI") AND CONTRADICTORY
CHARACTER, WHICH RECENTLY IS BECOMING THE TRADITION
OF THE CURRENT WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION;

-- ADMINISTRATION POLICIES ARE SERIOUSLY POISONING
THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT;

-- THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON U.S. DEFENSES CAST
DOUBT ON THE SINCERITY OF U.S. INTENTIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA, GENEVA, AND HELSINKI; AND

-- THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON COOPERATION WITH
THE USSR ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY PRACTICAL STEPS BY
THE WHITE HOUSE.

-- NEW DISCRIMINATORY LIMITATIONS HAVE BEEN PUT ON
TRADE WITH THE USSR (NOT MENTIONING THE APPROVAL OF
THE DRESSER INDUSTRIES SALE, WHICH HAS YET TO BE
REPORTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS).

3. TASS SAYS THE PRESIDENT WAS ASKED ABOUT THE
DECLINE OF HIS POPULARITY, INDICATING THAT THE
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PRESIDENT SPOKE OF DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN
HIS RESPONSE. DIRECTLY BELOW THIS ARTICLE IN PRAVDA
IS A TASS ITEM REPORTING A GALLUP POLL SHOWING THE
PRESIDENT'S POPULARITY HAS FALLEN LOWER THAN THAT
OF ANY PRESIDENT SINCE TRUMAN. RED STAR OF AUGUST 13
CARRIES AN ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH TO THIS STORY
REPORTING THAT A HARRIS POLL FOUND THAT 69 PERCENT
OF THE U.S. PUBLIC SEE A "SERIOUS DIVERGENCE BETWEEN
THE WORDS AND THE DEEDS OF OFFICIAL WASHINGTON."

4. THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL-MILITARY REVIEW IN
RED STAR OF THE SAME DATE CITES VARIOUS NEW U.S.
ARMS PROGRAMS AND CLAIMS THAT:

-- THE U.S. SEEKS MILITARY SUPERIORITY;

-- THE U.S. INTENDS TO PROJECT ITS MILITARY POWER
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN PRACTICE OF GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY;

-- THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED ON A SHARP INCREASE OF
AMERICAN MILITARY POWER; AND

-- THE CREATION OF MODERN WEAPONS IS BECOMING TODAY

THE PARAMOUNT STATE POLICY OF THE U.S.

5. COMMENT: TASS' REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S
INTERVIEW CONTAINS MORE EDITORIAL CONTENT AND IS
MORE OUTSPOKEN IN ITS CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT
THAN USUAL. THE PROPAGANDA LINE CONTINUES TO
DEPICT A VACILLATING AND INCREASINGLY COLD WARISH
U.S. ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS STEPPING UP ARMS
EXPENDITURES AND LACKS SERIOUSNESS IN ARMS CONTROL
TALKS. ONE OBJECTIVE IS TO ISOLATE THE ADMINISTRATION-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 19343

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TION BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND FROM ITS ALLIES BY
PORTRAYING IT AS THE SOLE IMPEDIMENT TO DISARMAMENT
AND RELAXATION OF TENSIONS. CITATION OF PUBLIC
OPINION PLAYS A USEFUL ROLE IN THIS REGARD. TOON

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